

The Water Quality Program Financial Assistance Council's Role, Membership Appointment, and Terms and Responsibilities

Financial Assistance Council's Role:

The Water Quality Financial Assistance Council provides the Department of Ecology (Ecology) with advice and guidance for the effective and efficient administration of its state and federal grants and loans programs. The council is not mandated in state law but was formed by Ecology to help ensure that the process of administering state and federal grants and loans is transparent and is supported by Ecology's clients and stakeholders. The Council is comprised of representatives from cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, special purpose districts, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies.

Appointment of Members:

Constituent groups, e.g., Association of Washington Cities, are asked to nominate members to the Council. The Water Quality Program Manager appoints Council members who are nominated and willing to participate.

Member Terms and Responsibilities:

There are no term limits, but, for the sake of stability, Ecology asks members to participate regularly for at least two years. The council holds one-day meetings quarterly. The schedule is posted on the Web site:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/council/index.html>

Ecology may ask some of the members to serve on task forces to help the Water Quality Program develop or refine financial assistance initiatives proposed, and review and revise rules and guidance. Such task forces are adequately staffed by Ecology, and time commitments for our Council members are kept to a minimum. However, prior to full Council consideration, Ecology asks its taskforces to help develop options on issues salient to their particular constituents.